

Appln No. 09/582,175
Amdt date August 13, 2003
Reply to Office action of June 4, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed on June 4, 2003. The specification, claims 9, 10 and 15 have been amended for clarity. Claims 6-11 and 15 are now pending in this application.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-11 and 15 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Claim 9 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to overcome this objection. Furthermore, claims 10 and 11 have been amended to overcome this objection.

The Examiner stated that claims 6-8 are allowed and also stated that claims 9 and 15 would also be allowed if rewritten in independent form to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. As such, applicant submits that claims 9 and 15 which have been amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC §112, second paragraph are now in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 is indirectly dependent from claim 6. Claim 6 is in condition for allowance. As such, applicant submits that claim 10 is also in condition for allowance as being dependent from an allowable base claim and for the additional limitations it contains therein.

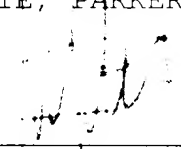
In the Office Action, the Examiner provided reasons for the allowability of claims 6-8. Applicant believes that the stated reasons for allowability are unnecessary. The record as a whole makes clear the reasons for allowance and therefore, the statement by the Examiner is not necessary nor warranted. While the applicant agrees that the claims are allowable, applicant does not acquiesce to the stated reasons for allowance, nor that

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patentability requires each stated feature, as expressed by the Examiner.

The rejections and objections to all claims pending in this application are believed to have been overcome and this application is now believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns about the allowability of this application, the Examiner is kindly requested to call the undersigned attorney to discuss them.

Respectfully submitted,
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